

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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DISTO/SALT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

GENEVA FOR DISTO AND CSCE; VIENNA FOR MBFR

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY PAPERS FEATURED
TAPES AND TRANSCRIPTS. TUESDAY WASHPOST INSIDE HAD SEN.

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SCOTT SAYING SOVIETS ARE HOPEFUL ON EMIGRATION ISSUE.

THURSDAY PAPERS REPORT HOUSE GROUP CUTS NERVE-GAS FUNDS;
BALTSUN HAS CORDDRY WASHINGTON, SOVIET SHIFT ON TROOP-CUTS
HINTED. COMMENT SCATTERED.

2. NERVE GAS. THURSDAY NYTIMES WASHINGTON UNSIGNED STORY
REPORTS HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HAS CUT BY ABOUT
HALF THE ARMY'S REQUESTED SUM OF SIX MILLIONS FOR DEVELOP-
MENT WORK ON SO-CALLED BINARY NERVE GASES IN COMING FISCAL
YEAR. ACTION BY NORMALLY PRO-PENTAGON COMMITTEE, SAYS
STORY, WILL NOT STOP ARMY PROGRAM TO REPLACE PRESENT STOCK-
PILE OF NERVE GASES WITH BINARY GASES, BUT IT DOES RE-
FLECT GROWING MOVEMENT IN CONGRESS TO REASSESS
PENTAGON'S OVERALL CHEMICAL WARFARE PROGRAM.

2A. THURSDAY WASHPOST GETLER REPORTS HOUSE FOREIGN AF-
FAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY AND
SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS OPENED EXTENDED HEARINGS ON US
CHEMICAL WARFARE POLICY, BEING BILLED AS MOST COMPREHEN-
SIVE LOOK AT CHEMICAL WARFARE POLICIES SINCE SAME COM-
MITTEE REVIEWED SUBJECT IN 1969. SINCE THEN, SAYS
GETLER, IT HAS BEEN CHARGED THAT BY FORWARDING ARMY RE-
QUEST TO CONGRESS TO BEGIN PRODUCING NERVE GAS ARTILLERY
SHELLS, WHITE HOUSE HAS SIGNALLED UNWILLINGNESS TO
SEE MORE RESTRICTIVE CHEMICAL WARFARE PROPOSALS MOVE
AHEAD AT DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. WHILE SOME
CHARGE THAT ADMINISTRATION SEEKS TO MAINTAIN LOW PROFILE
ON CHEMICAL ARMS QUESTION AND THUS KEEP ISSUE STALEMATED
IN CONGRESS AND IN GENEVA, ARMY REQUEST HAS ACTUALLY
REVIVED CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN SUBJECT, SAYS GETLER,
WHO SUMMARIZES REP, SCHROEDER'S TESTIMONY AGAINST CHEM-
WAR WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY TWO OTHER WITNESSES: SEN.
NELSON AND REP. DELLENBACK.

2B. ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH APRIL 13 EDITORIALIZED ON
COL. DINSMORE'S ADVOCACY OF SPENDING TWO BILLION DOLLARS
TO PRODUCE NEW NERVE GAS, SAYING NO REMOTELY PERSUASIVE
CASE HAS YET BEEN MADE FOR SO LARGE AN INVESTMENT FOR
SO DUBIOUS A PROJECT. PAPER ASKS RATIFICATION OF
1925 GENEVA PROTOCOL.

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3. TROOPS. THURSDAY BALTSUN CORDDRY REPORTS WASHINGTON
OFFICIALS SAID YESTERDAY THERE ARE SIGNS THE SOVIETS MAY
COME AROUND TO US POSITION THAT ONLY FORCES OF SUPER-
POWERS SHOULD BE CUT IN FIRST STAGE OF MBFR AGREEMENT,
WITH COMPLEX ISSUES INVOLVING CUTS IN EAST AND WEST
EUROPEAN FORCES PUT OFF FOR LATER STAGES. MBFR NEGOTIA-
TIONS WILL RESUME LATE NEXT WEEK WHEN NATO ALLIES
SHOULD GET BETTER IDEA OF WHETHER ASSESSMENT ABOUT MORE

TRACTABLE SOVIET POSITION IS JUSTIFIED. THERE APPEARS TO BE CONSENSUS, SAYS CORDDRY, THAT PROSPECTS FOR FIRST STAGE AGREEMENT AT MBFR TALKS ARE MUCH BRIGHTER THAN THOSE FOR NEW SALT PACT. AMONG REASONS CITED FOR EXPECTED MODERATION OF SOVIET POSITION ARE SOVIET CONCERN FOR EAST-WEST DETENTE THAT WILL BRING INCREASING TRADE, CHANCE TO REDUCE ARMS BURDEN, AND APPREHENSION ABOUT BORDER WITH CHINA THAT WOULD MAKE ATTRACTIVE A CHANCE TO PULL BACK SOME FORCES FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND HAVE THEM AVAILABLE FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

4. COMMENT. THURSDAY NYTIMES HAD OP-ED PIECE BY DANIEL LANG, AUTHOR OF PATRIOTISM WITHOUT FLAGS, WHO ARGUES

THAT SALT TALKS ARE AN ANACHONISM: NEGOTIATIONS THAT MAKE ALLOWANCE FOR CONTINUED MANUFACTURE AND STOCK-PILING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AREN'T WORTHY OF ENLISTING ONE'S FAITH AND HOPE. CITING PUBLIC OUTCRY OVER FALL-OUT IN RUSSIA AND AMERICA WHICH PRODUCED NUCLEAR TESTING BAN, LANG SAYS PERHAPS PUBLIC OUTCRY IS IN ORDER AGAIN FOR SALT IS DEMONSTRATING WE AND RUSSIANS ARE HOLDING STEADY TO A COURSE OF OLD WAYS AND NEW DRIFT. LEADERS NEED HELPING HAND FROM PUBLIC.

4A. TODAY'S WASHPOST EDITORIALIZES ON BASEMENT NUCLEAR BOMB AND COMMENDS SEN. RIBICOFF'S PLEA FOR MAKING HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL AIRTIGHT AND FOOLPROOF.

4B. NATIONAL REVIEW FOR MAY 10 HAS EDITORIAL MAINTAINING SALT ONE NOW LOOKS MORE AND MORE LIKE A DISASTER AND QUOTES AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY'S CONCLUSION THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WILL FEEL HARD PINCH OF SALT IN
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MOSCOW THIS JUNE BUT AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL FEEL IT LONG AFTERWARD WHEN THEY HAVE TO EXPEND VAST AMOUNT OF SWEAT AND PERHAPS BLOOD TO REGAIN WHAT SO NAIVELY WAS NEGOTIATED AWAY AT SALT.

4C. SUNDAY BALTSUN EDITORIAL WAS ENTITLED POOR TIME FOR SUMMITRY, SAYING PLANS FOR VISITS TO CAIRO MOSCOW HELSINKI DO NOT COMPORT WELL WITH LENGTHENING SHADOW OF IMPEACHMENT OVER PRESIDENT. SUN SAYS WESTERN EUROPEAN LEADERS MAY YET SEE IT WOULD BE BEST FOR ATLANTIC ALLIANCE TO AVOID SUMM
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